

WATER RESOURCES

Goals

Water quality. Manage state lands using mitigating measures to alleviate potential adverse effects on water quality

Watersheds. Make water available for the maximum use consistent with the public interest. Inventory and manage water resources to ensure a balance between instream and out-of-stream uses.

Instream Flow. Reserve adequate instream flow on a timely basis for resources and uses such as water quality, sanitation, recreational activities, navigation, and transportation before competition for competing water uses increases.

Glacier Ice Harvest. Make available glacier ice for harvest while avoiding and mitigating impacts on fish and wildlife resources and public recreation and tourism.

Cooperation with other agencies and the public. DNR will cooperate with the Department of Environmental Conservation, the public, and other agencies and organizations on watershed plans and approaches.

Management Guidelines

A. Commercial Glacier Ice Harvest. Commercial harvest of glacier ice in mapped seal haulout or pupping areas (1994 NOAA) will not be allowed during the period of use by seals. DNR will not process applications for commercial glacier ice harvest activities near seal haulout or pupping areas until the National Marine Fisheries Service has commented on the proposed activity.

Conflicts with other users will be taken into consideration when reviewing applications for commercial glacier ice harvest. Timing, seasonal, or other restrictions may be used to minimize conflicts.

For guidelines addressing water intake structures and alteration of the riverine hydrologic system, see the *Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest* section in this chapter.

B. Instream Flow Reservations and Stream Gauging

1. *Flow Reservations.* DNR should consider streams and other waterbodies for instream flow reservations and stream gauging when there is an anticipated or identified threat to the water supply needed to support significant public uses, when there is significant public use, or when the fish and wildlife or other resource values of the stream are

important to the residents of the state. Individuals, political subdivisions of the state, and federal agencies, as well as state agencies may apply for instream flow reservations.

Under DNR's statutes, reservation of instream flow is possible for four types of purposes:

- a. protection of fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation,
- b. recreation and park purposes,
- c. navigation and transportation purposes, or
- d. sanitary and water quality purposes.

DNR should consider streams and other waterbodies for instream flow reservations when the waterbody's value to a significant identified present or future public benefit is not protected by the ownership or classification of the surrounding and underlying land.

DNR should consider protecting significant public instream flow uses by placing conditions in water rights and use authorizations adequate to protect these uses.

2. Process for Determining Reservations. The process for determining instream flow reservations will include the following steps for each stream or other waterbody:

- a. Identify the management objectives.
- b. Estimate the quantity of water seasonally available by direct measurement (hydrograph), predictive methods (regional hydrographic models), or other appropriate methods.
- c. Determine the quantities of water already appropriated.
- d. In consultation with appropriate agencies and landowners, use site-specific studies or other information to determine the instream flow requirements for the resources and uses to be protected. For habitat resources this will require cooperative work and consultation with ADFG to identify necessary conditions for rearing, staging, reproduction, spawning, overwintering, and migration of valuable fish and wildlife resources.

Specific Instream Flow Reservations. Instream flow reservations should be established for the entire Kenai River and its tributaries that are consistent with the purposes for which Kenai River Special Management Area was established. In addition, instream flow reservations should be established within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

C. Wetlands. See the *Shorelines, Stream Corridors and Wetlands* guideline in this chapter.